

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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P R 041805Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1176
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MAZATLAN 0180

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, MX, EGEN, CGEN, PINT, SNAR
SUBJ: TELEGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS UPDATE

1. THE CONSUL WAS SURPRISED TO READ IN THE LOCAL PAPER SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT CONDOR 1 WAS PHASING OUT. THIS TURNED OUT TO BE A HALF-TRUTH. WHEN THE CONSUL CALLED ON THE FEDERAL DA AND THE GENERAL WHO IS THE COMMANDER OF THE 9TH MILITARY ZONE ON MARCH 31, THEY EACH STATED THAT THE ARMY UNIT INVOLVED WITH CONDOR 1 WAS PHASING OUT AND THAT NOW THE CAMPAIGN WAS DIVERTING ITS EFFORTS TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE MARIHUANA FIELDS. HOWEVER, EACH OFFICIAL STATED THAT VIGILANCE WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN THE AREAS FORMERLY CONTROLLED BY CONDOR 1 BY THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AND THE 9TH MILITARY ZONE. THE TASK OF THESE TWO GROUPS WOULD BE TWO-FOLD: TO CONDUCT AN INTENSIVE DRIVE TO DESTROY MARIHUANA FIELDS AND TO MAINTAIN SURVEILLANCE ON THE POPPY GROWING AREAS TO INSURE THAT THE FIELDS WERE NOT RECULTIVATED.

2. THE FEDERAL DA IN CULIACAN, LIC. CARLOS AGUILAR, DISCUSSED HIS ROLE IN COOPERATING WITH THE MILITARY AND SUPPLIED THE CONSUL WITH THE FOLLOWING FIGURES IN COMBATting DRUG TRAFFICKING: THE 6TH ZONE FROM DECEMBER 1, 1976 TROUGH MARCH 24, 1977:

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POPPY FIELDS	25,917	AREA OF 6,213 HECTARS
MARIHUANA FIELDS	3,042	AREA OF 697 HECTARS
CONFISCATED:		
DRY MARIHUANA	65,474	KILOGRAMS
HEROIN	20,000	KILOGRAMS
OPIUM GUM	5,737	KILOGRAMS
HASHISH	.002	GRAMS

COCAINE	3.108 KILOGRAMS
POPPY SEEDS	11 KILOGRAMS
MARIHUANA SEEDS	553 KILOGRAMS
PILLS	28 PIECES
LABORATORIES	3
RIFLES	29
HANDGUNS	19
CARTRIDGES	7,020
VEHICLES	12
AIRPLANES	1
ARRESTED:	
NATIONALS	211
ALIENS	4

3. FOLLOWING THE CALL ON THE FEDERAL DA, THE CONSUL VISITED GENERAL RICARDO CERVANTES, COMMANDER OF THE 9TH MILITARY ZONE, WHO CONFIRMED THAT CONDOR 1 WAS PHASING OUT. WHILE THE CONSUL WAS IN GENERAL CERVANTES' OFFICE, GENERAL TOLEDO, COMMANDER OF CONDOR 1, STOPPED IN TO SAY GOODBY TO THE GENERAL AND SAID HE WAS RETURNING TO MEXICO CITY THAT AFTERNOON. GENERAL CERVANTES WAS MOURNING THE DEATH OF HIS OLD FRIEND, MAJOR GUSTAVO SAMANO, WHOM HE HAD RECALLED FROM RETIREMENT TO SERVE AS HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT IN HIS CAMPAIGN TO WIPE OUT NARCOTICS' TRAFFICKERS IN SINALOA. HIS FRIEND HAD BEEN GUNNED DOWN BY A GROUP OF ASSAILANTS ON MARCH 25 IN BROAD DAYLIGHT WHEN HIS VEHICLE WAS INTERCEPTED ON A CULIACAN MAIN THOROUGHFARE. HE SAID THAT SO FAR THE ASSAILANTS HAD NOT BEEN APPREHENDED. ON THIS SUBJECT, EL DEBATE OF MARCH 28 COMMENTED THAT MAJOR SAMANO WAS ONE MORE OF THE MEN WHO FELL UNDER A HAIL OF BULLETS UNDER OPERATION CONDOR 1 AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ASKED QUOTE HOW MANY MORE WILL HAVE TO DIE BEFORE THERE IS AN END TO THE VIOLENCE IN SINALOA? UNQUOTE. ACCORDING TO AN EDITORIAL IN CULIACAN'S EL NOROESTE OF MARCH 28, THE ATTACKING VEHICLE HAD NO LICENSE PLATES, DESPITE THE TRANSIT POLICE'S INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE SUCH IRREGULARITIES. THE EDITOR REMARKED IF THE DELINQUENTS HAVE THE POWER TO LIQUIDATE HIGH ARMY AND POLICE OFFICIALS AS THEY HAVE RECENTLY, WHAT ASSURANCES OF LIVING PEACEFULLY COULD THE ORDINARY CITIZEN HAVE? GENERAL CERVANTES OUTLINED FOR THE CONSUL HIS PLAN FOR POLICING THE AREA IN SINALOA ABANDONED BY CONDOR 1. HE SAID IT WOULD ADD NO GREAT BURDEN BECAUSE NOW HIS OPERATION WOULD ONLY EMBRACE SINALOA AND THAT THE DURANGO AND CHIHUAHUA TERRITORIES, FORMERLY COVERED BY CONDOR 1, WOULD REVERT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE MILITARY ZONE COMMANDERS. HE SAID HE WAS RECEIVING SOME ADDITIONAL REINFORCEMENTS FROM SONORA. THE GENERAL COMMENTED THAT A CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY OF ARMS HAD BEEN CONFISCATED AT SOME OF HIS ROADBLOCKS AND THAT HE PLANNED TO KEEP THE ROADBLOCKS ON A PERMANENT BASIS. THE GENERAL WAS PROFUSE IN HIS THANKS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR THE PLANE WHICH WAS SENT TO HIS COMMAND,

AND SAID HE WOULD USE ALL METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION, FOOT, HORSE,
AND BURRO, IF NECESSARY, TO ACCOMPLISH HIS MISSION.

4. WHEN THE CONSUL CALLED ON FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE IN CULIACAN,
LIC. JOSE GALVAN, THE JUDGE, IN MAKING SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE
COMPLEXITIES INVOLDED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, STATED THAT

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MAZATLAN 0180

PEOPLE MOVED WITH THE EASY MONEY AND THAT IF VIGILANCE WAS
NOT CONSTANT ALL THE PROGRESS MADE BY CONDOR 1 IN SINALOA
WOULD BE FOR NOUGHT BECAUSE THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS WHO HAD
FLED WOULD RETURN. THE JUDGE COMMENTED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN
SINALOA HAD INCREASED GREATLY BECAUSE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF
THE POPPY FIELDS, THAT THE LEVEL OF SALES IN LUXURY ITEMS
HAD TAKEN A SHARP DROP, AND THAT THE MOUNTAIN FOLK HAD
DESCENDED TO THE CITY LOOKING FOR A MEANS OF MAKING A LIVING,
EVEN IF IT MEANT ROBBERY. THE JUDGE THEN DISCUSSED MORAL
VALUES AND COMMENTED THAT THOSE VALUES THAT BENEFIT SOCIETY
MUST COME FIRST AND THOSE THAT BENEFIT THE INDIVIDUAL ARE
AT BEST SECOND. HE INDICATED THAT SOMEHOW THESE VALUES HAD
BECOME REVERSED IN ORDER IN MEXICAN SOCIETY AND THAT THIS WAS
AN IMPORTANT REASON WHY MANY PEOPLE IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY
WHO FELT THE PINCH OF CONDOR 1 IN THEIR POCKETS WERE NO LONGER
WILLING TO SUPPORT IT.

5. THE ATMOSPHERE AMONG OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN IN CULIACAN
AND LOS MOCHIS IS DEPRESSING. THERE ARE STILL VISIBLE
INDICATIONS OF THE SHAKEY FOUNDATION ON WHICH CULIACAN'S
FUTURE RESTS, WHEN ONE VISITS THE COFFE SHOP IN THE EJECUTIVO
HOTEL AND OBSERVES THE LARGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WEARING
HUGE DIAMOND RINGS, EXPENSIVE WRIST WATCHES, GOLD SLAVE

BRACELETS-- TRADE MARKS OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS -- THE FACT IS
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BROUGHT HOME THAT CULIACAN STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TO RESTORE
LAW AND ORDER. AN ITEM IN CULIACAN'S NOROESTE OF MARCH 31
EXPRESSED GREAT DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ARMY'S ADMINISTRATION
OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCE. THE ARTICLE SAID THE WHOLE
SYSTEM WAS IN CHAOS AND DISORDER AND THAT CRIME WAS ON THE
INCREASE.

6. AS PREDICTED IN MAZATLAN'S 0149, THE OUTSPOKEN FEDERAL
TOURISM DELEGATE IN SINALOA, ENRIQUE FITCH-DIAZ, WHO HAS BEEN
HIGHLY CRITICAL OF GOVERNOR CALDERON AND THE FEDERAL AND LOCAL
POLICE IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF MEXICAN
BUREAU OF TOURISM. HIS REPLACEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED.

7. SINALOA'S LAND PROBLEM IS STILL REARING ITS UGLY HEAD. IN
A RECENT MEETING IN LOS MOCHIS THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL
CONFEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE SAID THAT THE LAND IS
FOR THE PERSON WHO WORKS IT BEST AND THAT MEXICO WILL NEVER BE
ABLE TO RESOLVE ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS BY AWARDING IT TO THE INEPT.
HE SAID PARTICIPATING IN THE SOLUTION TO THE LAND PROBLEMS IS
A RIGHT AND AN OBLIGATION WHICH MEXICANS CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE.
LIC. GUADIANO ADDED THAT ONLY BY RISING ABOVE THE SITUATION
COULD THERE BE AN ATMOSPHERE OF JUSTICE AND TRANQUILITY IN
SINALOA, NECESSARY REQUISITES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCE.
HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT COMPETITION IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR AND
THAT THE LAND SHOULD BE FOR THE PERSONS WHO OBTAIN THE BEST
HARVESTS TO FEED EVERYONE, NOT FOR THOSE WHO BY IGNORANCE,
LAZINESS OR INCAPACITY CAN BARELY RAISE ENOUGH TO FEED THEMSELVES.
HE SUMMARIZED HIS REMARKS WITH QUOTE WE LIVE IN A CRITICAL ERA.
TO CONFRONT IT WITH LACK OF HOPE, WITHOUT UNITY, WITHOUT
ENTHUSIASM, WOULD BE LIKE ADMITTING BANKRUPTCY BEFOREHAND UNQUOTE.
IN RESPONSE TO LIC. GUADIANO'S SPEECH, GOVERNOR CALDERON
REMARKED QUOTE WE ARE TRYING TO FIND THE ROAD TO PEACE IN
SINALOA UNQUOTE.
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